

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 3, 2020

The Honorable Mike Quigley
Chairman
Financial Services and General Government
Sub-Committee
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Kennedy
Chairman
Financial Services and General Government
Sub-Committee
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Steve Womack
Ranking Member
Financial Services and General Government
Sub-Committee
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chris Coons
Ranking Member
Financial Services and General Government
Sub-Committee
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Quigley, Chairman Kennedy, Ranking Member Womack, and Ranking Member Coons:

We appreciate your continued efforts to come to an agreement on the FY 2021 Financial Services and General Government (FSGG) spending bill. As negotiations move forward, we respectfully request the inclusion of funding specifically dedicated for land port of entry (LPOE) modernization and construction projects, as detailed by the General Services Administration and Customs and Border Protection's five-year port-of-entry capital investment plan.

LPOEs are critical to our national security and economy. The vast majority of trade with Mexico and Canada – two of our nation's three largest trading partners – flows through LPOEs, which facilitate this vital economic activity while providing Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) the facilities and tools necessary to regulate flow in and out of our country. They also allow CBP to prevent illicit drugs and other goods from crossing the border. From 2014 through 2018, approximately 65 percent of drug seizures occurred at LPOEs.

Unfortunately, many LPOEs, some which were built in the early 20th century, have reached capacity and are considered beyond their useful lives. They are outdated and no longer suitable to process the volume of traffic that flows through them every day. Such conditions impair CBP's ability to effectively carry out its mission, often leading to increased congestion, wait times, and security and safety concerns. These conditions are unacceptable and deeply concerning.

While we are aware of budgetary limitations, we believe that modernizing LPOEs should be a top priority. With modernized LPOEs, we will increase economic activity and development while enhancing border and national security. As such, we respectfully request that you work to include the House-passed

language for LPOEs and support funding of \$2.8 billion for this activity in the FY 2021 omnibus appropriations bill.

Thank you for your continued hard work in this regard.

Sincerely,



Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress



Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress



Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress



Paul Gosar
Member of Congress



Raúl Grijalva
Member of Congress



Debbie Lesko
Member of Congress



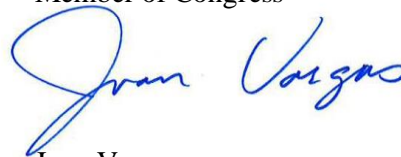
Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress



David Schweikert
Member of Congress



Greg Stanton
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Filemon Vela
Member of Congress



Andy Biggs
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Nita Lowey, Chairwoman, House Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Kay Granger, Ranking Member, House Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Richard Shelby, Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Patrick Leahy, Vice Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee